

THREE YOUNG MUMS BRING LATEST AUSSIE STICKER CRAZE TO ESSEX



■ Sticky business – entrepreneurs Cheryl Else, Kerry Johnson and Emma Kruse

Picture: AL UNDERWOOD BA50376_004

A GROUP of Rochford mums are hoping to bring an Australian craze to Essex.

Cheryl Else is hoping a gift from relatives in Perth, Australia, will help her start a successful business.

Mrs Else, 38, of Warwick Gardens, Rayleigh, was given a sticker in April by her father-in-law, Doug Else, after he had been to see his daughter, Catherine Mayer, in Australia.

The car sticker was from The Sticker Family series which has swept Australia.

The phenomenon is stickers of stickman family members and each sticker can be customised to depict an individual family.

Mrs Else explained: "The sticker I was given had my husband and son playing football, me on the computer and phone, my daughter in a ballet outfit and a dog, which sums us all up perfectly."

Mrs Else contacted the company in Australia and along with her friends, Emma Kruse, Angela Benfield, Lisa Tuskin and Kerry Johnson, she is now the official Essex agent for the company.

Call for inquiry into the number of traveller sites

CALLS are being made for an inquiry into an alleged national shortage of traveller pitches, due to the number of Dale Farm residents who have other homes.

The Equalities and Human Rights Commission says there is a national shortage of 4,000 traveller caravan pitches.

This is because there are currently 4,000 illegal pitches across the country.

But critics argue how the statistics are calculated is flawed, because they do not take into account that many traveller plots, including those at the legal Dale Farm site, are empty and some travellers own more than one pitch.

David McPherson-Davis, a Ramsden Crays Parish councillor, said: "There needs to be an inquiry into the number of lawful pitches, so the

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real level of need can be calculated.

"The alleged national shortage does not take into account the high number of lawful pitches which appear to be empty, or people with multiple ownerships."

He said there was evidence some who own legal pitches leave them to occupy illegal plots in a bid to get planning permission to increase the value of the land.

Many of the legal plots at Oak Lane, Crays Hill, stand empty much of the year.

Some Dale Farm families also own legal plots at the Smithy Fen site in Cottenham, near Cambridgeshire.

The latest case to arouse suspicion is that of James and Mary O'Brien, who died in 2005 and 2006, and had two legiti-

mate homes while trying to get permission for a pitch at Dale Farm, claiming they had nowhere else to live.

The Echo discovered last month they had a house in Rathkeale, County Limerick, in the Republic of Ireland.

It has now emerged the couple shared a third address – a legal caravan pitch at Smithy Fen.

Mr and Mrs O'Brien argued at a planning inquiry in 2003 they needed the Dale Farm plot to access to medical care due to ailing health.

The address of their Limerick house was carved into the tombstone of their grave in Rathkeale, where they are buried.

The third address was revealed by probate records.

John Dornan, a Tory Basildon councillor, backed Mr McPherson-Davis' call for the inquiry.

Latest application is a test case

A LAST-DITCH bid for planning permission by a woman to live at Dale Farm has been recommended for refusal.

Today Judge Mr Justice

hundreds of travellers awaiting his decision, made an application to the council to reconsider granting permission for her illegally-built

cation which is seen as a "test case" for the rest of the site.

Mrs Flynn's pitch is one of three at Dale Farm where, fol-

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